Remarks

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 16 are independent and have been amended in the "Amendments to the Claims" above to further clarify that the cells claimed in the present application are spreadsheet-based cells.

Objection to the Specification:

Page 2 of the Action objects to the specification because of informalities. The Action states that on page 2, line 20 of the specification it appears that the word "renter" should be spelled "reenter. " The suggested change has been made in the "Amendments to the Specification" above. Applicant, therefore respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by StatTrak K-ForCE 2.2 from AllPro Sports Software (hereinafter "StatTrak"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because StatTrak fails to teach, suggest, or disclose every element of the claims.

Certain embodiments of the invention disclosed in the present application are directed to a new paradigm for "cells" in a spreadsheet, wherein the cells are provided with built-in functionality for incrementing, list selection, and selection/de-selection. Clicking or tapping on a cell invokes functionality per the assigned "cell type" and differs from the traditional paradigm for interaction with spreadsheet cells, wherein a user can only enter text, numbers or formulas. This leads to a compact representation ideally suited to small screens (such as found on PDA devices) and a simple model for a data recording interface which looks like a spreadsheet.

Additionally, by using a spreadsheet-based cell it can also be easier for a user to customize the functionality by editing the underlying spreadsheet. Such user customization is not possible in a stand-alone program without rewriting the application.

According to various embodiments, a cell in a spreadsheet has a defined functionality (such as tap count, choice list or check mark). This functionality may be added to various cells in a spreadsheet. When tapped upon, the functionality causes a cell-driven dynamic behavior. In this cell-centric method, the cell behaves as if it were the control, rather than just receiving a value from the control. Accordingly, various embodiments are not simply a system allowing tapping on a handheld computer screen, but rather spreadsheet based systems or methods that allow a user to increment a spreadsheet based cell, add text to a spreadsheet based cell, record a checkmark in a spreadsheet based cell, etc., as the result of a tap. Further, by using a spreadsheet based cell the user might customize a spreadsheet by allowing the user to select what functionality is contained within a given cell. The user may select what process is performed as a result of a tap.

Claim 1 recites a method of updating a spreadsheet-based cell having a value by "tapping on the spreadsheet-based cell; automatically increasing the value of the cell by a predetermined increment each time the cell is tapped; and recording a statistic of an athletic competition using the value of the cell."

Contrary to the assertion contained in the Action, StatTrak fails to teach or suggest such subject matter. StatTrak concerns a stand-alone program to show "recording a statistic of an athletic competition using the value of the cell." The "cell" of StatTrak, however, is not a spread-sheet based cell. StatTrak does not teach tapping/clicking on a spreadsheet-based cell and

automatically increasing the value of the spreadsheet based cell by a predetermined increment each time the cell is tapped. Further, a user cannot access data in StatTrak as part of a spreadsheet. Additionally, StatTrak does not include "strike increment" or "ball increment" boxes that might be repeatedly tapped to change the ball or strike count.

Nothing in StatTrak teaches, suggests, or discloses an easily customizable system using a spreadsheet-based cell. StatTrak is a stand-alone program rather than a spreadsheet document. In StatTrak a user cannot access data as part of a spreadsheet. The scoreboard maintained in StatTrak is strictly a single sport score board and cannot be easily customized and updated by the user. The values on the StatTrak scoreboard are the result of a complex sequence of screen selections which conform to the rules of baseball rather than as a result of basic taps that allow data entry into a spreadsheet that is more easily customizable by a user.

Stand-alone programs are much more difficult, if not impossible, for a user to modify when compared to spreadsheet based workbooks. Even if the user was supplied with source code for the stand alone program, the user would have to know how to program in the programming language of that source code to modify the software in a useful way. A user of the StatTrak system uses the system as programmed by the developers of StatTrak, without the ability to customize the system as a user customizes a spreadsheet document. Spreadsheet documents are generally very customizable and can be updated, changed, or otherwise modified very easily by almost anyone with a modicum of experience using the spreadsheet software. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable because StatTrak does not teach tapping/clicking on a spreadsheet-based cell and automatically increasing the value of the cell by a predetermined increment each time the cell is tapped.

Independent claims 7, 13, and 16 include the same "spreadsheet-based cell" limitation of claim 1. Accordingly, the arguments set forth with respect to claim 1 are applicable and are hereby repeated, and claims 7, 13, and 16 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 7 for the additional reason that StatTrak does not teach automatically displaying the drop-down list as taught in claim 7. As discussed above, and in contrast to the position taken by the Office, StatTrak does not teach "automatically displaying the drop-down list in response to tapping on the [spreadsheet-based] cell." More specifically, StatTrak teaches "selecting a player from a popup list" in a stand-alone piece of software, not in a spreadsheet document. Nothing in StatTrak teaches that the cell, as described in the present application, is a spreadsheet-based cell and that a drop-down list is displayed in response tapping on the spreadsheet-based cell. A spreadsheet based cell has various advantages, as discussed above. For example, spreadsheet based cells are generally more easily customized by a user. Spreadsheets are generally designed to be modified by the user. Nothing in StatTrak teaches, suggests, or discloses a spreadsheet based cell that displays a drop-down list when tapped. Rather, in StatTrak, pull down menus are used in a fixed program that is difficult or impossible for a user to modify. Nothing in StatTrak teaches systems or methods that may be referenced within a spreadsheet.

Independent claim 16 includes the same "drop-down list in response to tapping on the [spreadsheet-based] cell" limitation as claim 7. Accordingly, the arguments set forth with respect to claim 7 are applicable and are hereby repeated.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection as to claims 1, 7, 13, and 16, as well as dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-15, and 17-18 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 is solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment for any additional required fees (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 19-1853 referencing Docket No. 11KP-122959. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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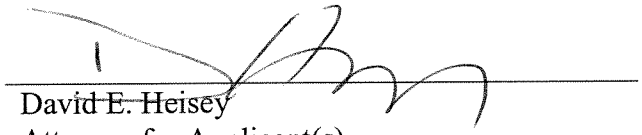
Respectfully submitted,



David E. Heisey
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 42,651

SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP
333 S. Hope Street, 48th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Telephone No.: (858) 720-8936
Facsimile No.: (858) 509-3691